



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Raised Bill No. 1026

LCO No. 2978

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:

(PH)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES FACILITIES BY SELF HELP GROUPS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Subsection (q) of section 17a-451 of the general statutes is repealed
2 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (q) (1) The commissioner may make available to municipalities, [or]
4 nonprofit community organizations or self help groups any services,
5 premises and property under the control of the Department of Mental
6 Health and Addiction Services but shall be under no obligation to
7 continue to make such property available in the event the department
8 permanently vacates a facility. Such services, premises and property
9 may be utilized by such municipalities, [or] nonprofit community
10 organizations or self help groups in any manner not inconsistent with
11 the intended purposes for such services, premises and property. The
12 Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services shall submit
13 to the Commissioner of Administrative Services any agreement for
14 provision of services by the Department of Mental Health and
15 Addiction Services to municipalities, [or] nonprofit community

16 organizations or self help groups for approval of such agreement prior
17 to the provision of services pursuant to this [section] subsection.

18 (2) The municipality, [or] nonprofit community organization or self
19 help group using any premises and property of [said] the department
20 shall be liable for any damage or injury which occurs on [said] the
21 premises and property and shall furnish to the Commissioner of
22 Mental Health and Addiction Services proof of financial responsibility
23 to satisfy claims for damages on account of any physical injury or
24 property damage which may be suffered while [said] the municipality,
25 [or] nonprofit community organization or self help group is using
26 [said] the premises and property of [said] the department in such
27 amount as the commissioner determines to be necessary. The state of
28 Connecticut shall not be liable for any damage or injury sustained on
29 [said] the premises and property of the department while [said] the
30 premises and property are being utilized by any municipality, [or]
31 nonprofit community organization or self help group.

32 (3) The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services
33 shall adopt regulations, [pursuant to sections 4-166 to 4-174, inclusive]
34 in accordance with chapter 54, to carry out the provisions of this
35 subsection. As used in this subsection, "self help group" means a
36 voluntary group of persons who offer peer support to each other in
37 recovering from an addiction.

PH *Joint Favorable*